AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1204 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1934 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 24, NO. 19

The great would not consider themselves demigods if the little did not worship them.—Boiste.

Editorials

An Unwarranted Attack

The determination of certain big business ballyhooers opposed to President Roosevelt's Recovery Program to falsify the facts regarding the enforcement of the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act is well illustrated in an editorial by B. C. Forbes in Forbes's Magazine, of which he is the publisher, attacking the National Labor Board for its recent decision ordering the Fifth Avenue Coach Company of New York City to obey the Act and cease intimidating their employes with the object of preventing them from exercising their rights under it.

As the basis for his attack Mr. Forbes alleges that the coach company recently discharged certain employes on the ground that "their work was unsatisfactory," and "that they were inefficient." He adds that "outside labor agitators" claimed these "inefficient" men had been dropped because of their desire to bring an "outside union" into the company's affairs and implies that the Labor Board used the weight of its authority to put the alleged "inefficient" men back on the job.

Mr. Forbes displays a profound ignorance of the facts of this case which even a casual examination of the record reveals.

In its decision the National Labor Board declared:

> **"The facts presented at the hearings show that in August the company began an active campaign to prevent union organization by the Amalgamated Association of Street & Railway Workers and Motor Coach Employes, Local 994, the complainant union in this case.**
>
> **"Between August 11 and the beginning of November nineteen active union members, including all the officers of the union, were discharged.**
>
> **The Regional Labor Board's finding that these nineteen employes were discharged because of their union activity is amply supported by the evidence."**

Later, in their determination to prevent organization of their employes in a bona fide union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, officials of the company were placed at the door of the hall where union meetings were held and union men were shadowed by company detectives.

In March when the New York Regional Labor Board held an election for collective bargaining representatives a foreman warned employes that they "had better keep away" from the polling places and on the day of the election, according to the board, "higher company officials stationed themselves in parked cars near such polling places in such a manner that employes coming to vote would see them on watch."

Of course this terrorism resulted in the election being a farce, only twelve employes out of one thousand eligible to vote actually casting ballots. Acting upon this evidence covering facts extending over a number of months, the National Labor Board said:

> **"The company by its conduct has restrained the employes from exercising their rights to organize and choose representatives for the purpose of collective bargaining. It has by its actions nullified the rights granted to its employes by the National Industrial Recovery Act."**

The Board, therefore, issued a ruling that the company reinstate the employes which the evidence showed had been discharged for their union activity and cease "annoying, watching, and intimidating" them with the object of hindering the exercise of their rights under the Recovery Act, ordered an election of collective bargaining representatives held under the supervision of the New York Regional Labor Board, and declared that the company should bargain collectively with the representatives so chosen.

In condemning this essentially just and equitable ruling of the National Labor Board to compel the Fifth Avenue Coach Company to recognize the workers' rights under the labor section of the National Recovery Act, Mr. Forbes waves both of his editorial hands high over his head and shouts:

> **"Is America threatened with the spawning of a colossal political bureaucracy bent upon destroying the methods, the system, the practices which have enabled American industry and business to reach world leadership? Do the majority of American citizens favor surrendering their inherited and heretofore cherished rights, freedom, liberty, to dictatorial bureaucrats?"**

All of which vociferous exhibition of mental inebriety is caused by the determination of the National Labor Board that the officials of a coach company in the city of New York shall observe the statute law which prescribes that employes shall have the right, without interference, coercion, or intimidation by employers, to organize in bona fide labor unions and freely choose their representatives for collective bargaining!

As an opponent of the labor section of the National Recovery Act Mr. Forbes is, of course, free to attack the National Labor Board, which enforces it by authority of the President of the United States. But it is axiomatic that he should base his attacks on the easily ascertained facts, which he evidently did not do in his screed against the board for its decision in the coach company case.

A Sound Decision

The decision of Justice Jennings Bailey of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia awarding the receiver of the Park Savings Bank a judgment for $50,000 against the American Surety Company of New York is a victory for the depositors and a judicial affirmation of the legal responsibility of corporations which insure banks against loss from defalcations by officers and other employes and then attempt to evade fulfillment of their obligations.

The American Surety Company entered into a contract with the bank guaranteeing faithful performance of their duties by the bank's officers. In March, 1933, the executive officer committed suicide. After his death a shortage of approximately $1,500,000 was discovered. The bank was declared insolvent and the receiver instituted suit to recover on the bond.

Officers of the surety company refused to pay the $50,000, basing their action on the claim that at the time the insurance contract was made the bank's charter had expired, and, therefore, the bank's officers acted beyond the scope of their authority.

Justice Bailey reduced this contention to zero. He said:

> **"In my opinion it is immaterial whether the charter of the plaintiff had expired or not, or whether or not, under the laws of the State of its incorporation, its officers had the power to continue to conduct a banking business; they did so, and the contract in question was entered into between the parties in the light of the knowledge by the defendant of the nature of the business conducted by the plaintiff.**
>
> **"The defendant cannot now say that the plaintiff had no power to enter into the contract by which the defendant insured the employes of the plaintiff engaged in a banking business, where the circumstances show the character of the business and the liability covered by the policy."**

It is a frequent practice for groups of business men to incorporate as surety companies, insure banks against loss from the dishonesty of officials and other employes and then use every technicality which legal experts can trump up as justification for their refusal to pay the insurance when defalcations occur.

Justice Bailey's decision blocks at least one surety company from achieving this object. Barring the possibility of appeal to the higher courts, the $50,000 judgement will be distributed by the receiver among the depositors of the insolvent bank.

STRIKE RIGHT UPHELD BY N. J. HIGH COURT

Decision Declares Strikes and Picketing Are Valid Exercise of Labor's Rights Under Section 7-A of Recovery Act and Voids Injunction of Former Vice Chancellor Fallon Restraining Silk Workers' Union from Using Them.

Trenton, N. J.—In a decision notable for its clarity the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals ruled that former Vice Chancellor John J. Fallon "was clearly in error" in granting injunction against agents of the American Federation of Silk Workers, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, restraining employes of the plant from striking and prohibiting them and operatives of the union from participating in and encouraging picketing.

Interprets Section 7-A

In modifying the injunction, the court interpreted the collective bargaining and labor organizing provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act to embrace peaceful picketing and orderly strikes.

The company closed its plant last September, alleging it was forced to do so because of "disorderly picketing" resulting from demands for increased pay.

The Vice Chancellor, the court held, evolved an interpretation of the Recovery Act that the silk union could not participate in the dispute because only employes of the company were recognized under the collective bargaining clause.

This conclusion, the opinion said, "makes the individual plant the unit for collective bargaining and denies all nonemployes, termed 'intermeddlers,' the right of participation in such endeavors."

NRA Does Not Bar Strikes

Many of the plant's employes were members of the union, which, the court points out, was "an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, a responsible labor organization with nation-wide jurisdiction.

"The interpretation of the Act," the opinion continued, "adopted by the Vice Chancellor would outlaw this organization and prevent the affiliation of the individual unincorporated local organized to promote the common aims and purposes.

"We do not find expressed in the Recovery Act a Congressional purpose to deprive the employes of the right to strike, whereas the Act does demand that a wage increase is not complied with.

Picketing Is Lawful

"The right to organize and bargain collectively connotes the right to strike.

"The right to strike includes the right to use peaceable and lawful means to induce present employes and expectant employes to join the union.

"Picketing is lawful if it does not have an immediate tendency to intimidation of the other party to the controversy."

PRISON-MADE GOODS SALE BANNED IN RHODE ISLAND

Providence, R. I.—The Legislature of Rhode Island passed a law which was approved by the Governor preventing the sale of products of penal institutions on the open market and implementing the Federal Hawes-Cooper law by providing that goods made in penal institutions of other States, when transported into the State, are subject to the same laws as the products of the State's own penal institutions.

The section of the Act of interest to labor follows:

"Section 4. The sale on the open market in this State of all goods, wares or merchandise manufactured or mined, wholly or in part, by convicts or prisoners (except prisoners on parole or probation) or in any penal and (or) reformatory institution is hereby prohibited.

"The provisions of this Act and all other regulations with a body organized in effect at that time and not inconsistent with this Act, shall apply to all goods, wares and merchandise manufactured or mined, wholly or in part, by convicts or prisoners (except prisoners on parole or probation) or in any penal and (or) reformatory institution and transported into the State for use or distribution, to the same extent and in the same manner as if such goods and merchandise were so manufactured, produced or mined in this State."

8 WORKERS ESCAPE DEATH IN COAL MINE FIRE TRAP

Linton, Ind.—Eight miners escaped from the Little Betty coal mine near here after being trapped in the pit for two hours by a fire that destroyed the surface buildings. The men groped through the darkened pit to the mainway, an entrance cut, and made their way to the surface, 400 feet from the tipple where the fire was raging.

An explosion at this mine in January, 1931, took a toll of 51 lives.

Although warned by that disastrous explosion, the management seems to have taken but little precaution to protect the lives of the miners against the dangers to life and limb caused by preventable fires.

28,000 Pennsylvania Clerks Slated for Full-Time Work

Philadelphia, Pa.—Twenty-eight thousand clerical workers throughout the Pennsylvania Railroad system go back on full time work June 1.

At present they are off two days a month without pay, compared with six days off each month a year ago, the company said in announcing the change.

MORRISON CITES FIRM GROWTH OF A. F. OF L.

1,368 Federal Labor Unions Organized Since July 3, 1933

Washington.—Since July 3, 1933, the American Federation of Labor has chartered 1,368 Federal Labor Unions, Secretary Frank Morrison reported to the Spring meeting of the A. F. of L. Executive Council here.

These unions, which are directly affiliated with the Federation, have a potential membership of 500,000.

Mr. Morrison explained that this growth in A. F. of L. membership was not limited to the Federal Unions, but that there had been large increases among the 108 national and international unions comprising the Federation. The report will not be ready before August 31.

Mr. Morrison declared that "the spirit of organization was never better."

"The organization campaign of 1901 to 1904 added 800,000 members to the Federation," he continued. "Between 1916 and 1920 the Federation added 2,000,000 to its rolls. There is every indication that the campaign now under way will exceed the increase of 1916 to 1920."

Mr. Morrison recalled that the 1901-1904 organization campaign had added many Federal Unions to the Federation and that out of these, 10 international unions were formed. He predicted that another crop of international unions would arise out of the new local unions.

WEIRTON STEEL KEEPS GOVERNMENT CONTRACT

Ickes Will Not Oppose PWA Work Going to Alleged Violator of Labor Section of Recovery Act

Washington.—Although the Government is prosecuting the Weirton Steel Company on a charge of violating Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act, which guarantees the workers the right to organize in bona fide unions and chose collective bargaining representatives without interference from employers, Secretary of the Interior Ickes said that this Public Works Administration would make no effort to prevent the company from receiving the $35,000,000 contract to be paid for by the Government.

The contract for rail fastenings was awarded the steel company by the New York Central Railroad with the understanding that it was to be paid for from a PWA loan for improvement.

PWA contracts require purchases to be made only from firms complying with the Recovery Act and it was called to the attention that the company's right to a Blue Eagle has been challenged by NRA.

"Apparently we can't do anything about the Weirton contract," Ickes said. "They still are under the Blue Eagle. It looks as though it is up to the NRA now. As far as we are concerned, I guess we'll have to let the matter drop."

LONG HOURS AND LOW PAY IN RECTIFYING INDUSTRY

Washington.—The determination of employers to continue the long work week and low wages despite the existence of an army of 10,000,000 unemployed and the imperative need of larger purchasing power among the job-holding workers is revealed in the labor provisions of the code for the distilled spirits rectifying industry approved by General Johnson, Recovery Administrator.

The code sets a maximum 40-hour week with seasonal peaks permitting a maximum of 48 hours. Minimum wages would be 35 cents an hour for female employes engaged in such light work as wrapping and labeling, $14 a week for office boys and messengers, $16 a week for other office employes and $18 a week for all other employes.

This industry being new, there are no current statistics of its extent or the number of its employes. They are estimated at approximately 10,000, however.

When public hearing on the code was held, March 15, the industry proposed a 42-hour week with various exceptions, and minimum wages of 40 cents per hour for all but clerical employes. No change was made in proposed minimum wages for office workers.

The code became effective May 7.

Textile Bag Code Group Issues Child Labor Ban

New York.—Four operations of the used textile bag industry have been recommended by the Code Authority for that industry to the NRA, on which operations children under 18 years of age shall not be employed, it was announced by Benjamin Schwartz, counsel for the Code Authority. Section 1 of Article V of the code provides that the Code Authority shall recommend, not later than May 1, a list of "operations or occupations hazardous in nature or detrimental to health," to be limited to employes over 18 years of age.

The following operations were listed by the Code Authority: (1) Operating vacuum cleaning machines; (2) operating printing presses; (3) operating electric or hand baling presses, and presses.

Teacher's Oath to Uphold U. S. Constitution Urged

Washington.—A resolution requiring all teachers and employes of the public school system to swear allegiance to the U. S. Constitution was introduced in the House by Representative Edward A. Kenney, of New Jersey.

Claiming that "Communism, Fascism, Nazism and Bolshevism" has been charged to many teachers, Mr. Kenney declared that "Congress should send out its message to the States and Territories of the Union that it stands back of them in perpetuating the principles of the Constitution."

CODES FAIL AS JOB AID, GREEN DECLARES

Urges Enactment of La Follette Ten Billion Dollar Public Works Bill to Employ Idle Millions.

Washington.—Claiming that the NRA and the AAA have not put the millions of jobless back to work and raised purchasing power, which it was expected they would do, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, urged Congress to enact the $10,000,000,000 public works bill sponsored by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin.

The A. F. of L. chief told the Senate subcommittee which is holding hearings on the bill that the administration's recovery efforts had given jobs to between three and four million, but that the country could not hope for any "considerable amount of increased employment in that portion of industry for which codes are still to be adopted."

The crowd out that there are at least 10,000,000 able-bodied adult workers unemployed at present, Mr. Green continued:

"It would be a deplorably short-sighted policy, indeed, to take a position that the time has now come for a discontinuation of the public works program launched during the past year.

"We must remember that hungry men are dangerous men, and if we now attempt to prevent or curtail Government activities on public works programs we are inviting action which will in every way be destructive to our national life."

SHERIFFS KILL TWO MEN IN IRON MINERS' STRIKE

Birmingham, Ala.—Two unidentified coal miners were killed here in a gun battle between deputy sheriffs and a crowd of several hundred striking iron ore miners.

The crowd of strikers blocked the automobile of the deputies on patrol duty by putting a log across the mountain road near the Ishkoods ore mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co., a few miles south of here.

The officers said shots were fired at them by the crowd and they returned the fire, raking the crowd with submachine guns.

One man fell dead. Another was found after shooting from the roadside by the posse.

The Ishkoods iron ore mine was closed, along with other ore mines in this area by a strike of 2,500 union miners in protest against failure of operators to adopt a code and pay them wages comparable to those received by coal miners. They are asking raises of $1 to $2.84 a day.

C. C. PLATT, LABOR'S FRIEND, IS DEAD AT 76

Author of "Human Behavior" Passes Away in St. Petersburg, Fla.

St. Petersburg, Fla.—Chester C. Platt, active in labor and civic circles here for many years, died at Mount Park Hospital following an illness of several weeks. He was 76 years of age.

Mr. Platt was born in 1857, in Westchester county, N. Y. He was formerly resident and publisher of the Batavia (N. Y.) Times. For the last nine years he had been a winter resident here. For a number of years he was also the author of the column "Human Behavior," widely published in labor papers.

He was vice president of the St. Petersburg Open Air Forum, and one of the founders of the forum. He was always keenly interested in public affairs.

An always an advocate of world peace and world labor progress, he attended a number of international peace and labor congresses at Geneva, Switzerland, and interviewed many prominent labor leaders. He was entertained by Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald during the time when the Labor Party controlled the British Government.

Mr. Platt took a keen interest in the labor movement, and was seated as a fraternal delegate to the St. Petersburg Central Labor Union eight years ago.

His death is a great loss to organized labor and the community generally.

The body was sent to Ithaca, N. Y., for burial.

RAIL UNIONS JUSTIFIED IN FORCING PAY BOOST

Carriers Triple Income During First Quarter of 1934

Washington.—The volumes of hot air regarding the poverty of the railroads which the railway executives shot forth recently in their frantic opposition to restoring the 10 per cent pay reduction which they imposed on their employes a couple of years ago are completely exploded by the report of the Bureau of Railway Economics, an organization maintained by the carriers themselves, showing that the operating income of Class I roads for the first three months of this year was more than three times that of the same period last year.

The figures for the first quarter of 1934 were $112,276,896, compared with $34,551,646 for the first three months of 1933.

When these figures became known here it was seen that all the talk of the railway executives about their financial inability to restore only one-quarter of the original 10 per cent on July 1 was sheer subject.

Bourbon Employers Use Terrorism To Place Union Members Under Ban

Flouting of Section 7-A of Recovery Act and Persistent Persecution of Trade Unionists Makes Additional Legislation Imperative to Protect Statutory Guarantee That Workers Have the Substantive Right to Enroll in Bona Fide Labor Organizations and Bargain Collectively.

Washington.—There is a paramount necessity for the immediate enactment of the Federal legislation contained in the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill to prevent the barons of business and finance from continuing to discriminate against workers who exercise their statutory right to enroll in bona fide labor unions and use collective bargaining to adjust disputed questions covering wages, hours, and work conditions.

The urgent need for this legislation is abundantly emphasized by vast amounts of documentary evidence in the possession of the National Labor Board and the American Federation of Labor covering the brutal devices, direct and indirect, used by unpatriotic employers to victimize working men and women who regard their rights under the National Recovery Act as something real and who proceed to act in the belief that the plain words of the statute mean what they say.

Union Official Discharged

In a recent statement William Green, a member of the National Labor Board, cited instances of the subversive methods used by many employers in their attempt to deprive their employes of the right to enroll in bona fide trade unions.

"I know of one instance in a city of the South," Mr. Green said, "where workers employed in a factory took Section 7-A seriously and formed a union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Immediately the president of the union was discharged. A committee of the workers called upon the management and asked why this action had been taken. They said: 'He has been here for fifteen years. He is a skilled worker. No complaint was ever made of the character of service he rendered. Why is he discharged?' We believe it is because he is the president of our union. We would like to ask you to put him back and give him a chance to earn a living for his wife and family.'

"The management would not listen. They said: 'We cannot reinstate him.' The workers felt badly. The committee went back, all of them continued at work hoping that another conference would be held and they could persuade the company to reinstate this worker, the president of their union.

Management Closes Factory

"That night the management notified everyone employed: 'This factory is closed down. There will be no work until further notice.' All of them remained at home. In three days a notice was published in the local papers that the factory would resume operations on a certain morning. The notice further stated that all those who desired work might apply for employment, and the company would hire such ones as they wished. Labor in the South is available most any time. As a result the workers flocked in. The company reemployed a new crew, leaving these two or three hundred workers out upon the charity of the community. Is there anybody so dull they cannot see through that? That is a part of the persecution inflicted upon workers because they organize."

Law With Teeth Necessary

"In other places," Mr. Green added, "workers have been discharged outright and have been told they were discharged because they joined a union. To me it is approximately criminality. I think it is a violation of the law and if I had my way I would put enough teeth in this law so that it would bring such employers into court and have themselves punished if they treated their employes in that way and discharged them because they joined a union."

These unjust practices, testified to by reams of complaints in the files of the National Labor Board and the American Federation of Labor, used by employers to make a mere shadow of the rights of the workers guaranteed by the National Recovery Act, will be knocked into smithereens by the enactment of the Wagner-Connery Bill.

Warner Bill Stops Victimization

Starting off with the positive declaration that "employes shall have the right to join labor organizations" and barring collectively through representatives of their own choosing, the bill declares it shall be an "unfair labor practice" punishable by law, for an employer to impair this right by "interference, influence, restraint, favor, coercion, or lockout, or by any other means."

This provision is a sample of the "teeth" with which the Wagner-Connery Bill purposes the government shall be equipped to loosen the strangle hold with which the bourbon anti-labor elements now dominate certain industries here and abroad. The section of the Recovery Act with the intention of destroying it.

When these teeth get into action they will rout the antilabor weasels who are bent on sucking away the lifeblood of Section 7-A and the labor section of the Recovery Act with the intention of destroying it.

When these teeth get into action they will rout the antilabor weasels who are bent on sucking away the lifeblood of Section 7-A and the labor section of the Recovery Act with the intention of destroying it.

No union shall be denied a charter by the Federation of Labor, at its Spring meeting here, authorized President Green to organize a research staff in Detroit for investigation of problems affecting labor in the automobile industry.

The action was taken after a progress report had been made by William Collins, Detroit representative.

Mr. Collins reported that there are 75 different branches in the automobile industry. He reviewed the recent negotiations between the unions and the officials of the Ford Motor Corporation and the Fisher Body Corporation.

He said that the policy of his organization was to keep agitation at a minimum so as not to interfere with the orderly progress of the industry.

He concluded with an outline of the broad problems of the industry as affecting labor and requested that a research staff be set up under Mr. Green's direction.

The research organization will comprise economists, statisticians and clerical workers.

Among the problems to be taken up for consideration are:

The spreading up of production, the stability of employment with special reference to the seasonal trend of the industry, the method of laying off employes at the season's end, the classification of work and wages and working conditions in automobile plants all over the country.

The decision to form the research organization was heralded as a notice to the automobile industry that "the American Federation of Labor is here to stay," and that it would continue its efforts to establish sound method of working out problems in which employers and employes were vitally interested.

UNION LABELED GAVELS

Washington.—In a communication to the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, Vice President George H. Lakey of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, advises that he can furnish union-labeled gavels made of American walnut and Mexican mahogany. They are beautifully turned and highly finished and are in two sizes. The price is $1.25.

Trade unions desiring a gavel should write to George H. Lakey, Carpenters' Building, Indianapolis, Ind.

Purchasing union-labeled gavels will give employment to union carpenters.

Albany Traction Employes Win 5 Per Cent Pay Boost

Albany, N. Y.—Confronted with growing unrest because of increased living costs and low earnings, officials of the United Traction Company here announced a 5 per cent pay increase, which affected 700 employes and will amount to around $50,000 annually.

Salaries were reduced 10 per cent February 1, 1932. Considerable dissatisfaction manifested itself among the workers because the entire 10 per cent cut was not restored. It is believed that the mobilization of their discontent will bring another increase in the contents of the pay envelopes in the near future.

R. I. WAGE CHISELER LOSES "BLUE EAGLE"

Failure of Cotton Dress Goods Manufacturer to Pay Code Minimum Brings Order from Johnson to Surrender NRA Insignia.

Providence, R. I.—Clyde Mills, Inc., of Westerly, manufacturers of cotton dress goods, has been ordered to surrender the NRA insignia to the Postmaster at Westerly for alleged violation of the cotton textile code, according to a telegraphic communication received by Leroy King, State Director of the National Emergency Council, from Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, Administrator of the NRA at Washington.

Officials of the Cotton Textile Institute said the Clyde Mills was deprived of its Blue Eagle because it failed to pay the minimum wage over long period and that withdrawal of the NRA insignia was the first case to affect the cotton textile industry. The Westerly mill, under order of General Johnson, is restrained from displaying the Blue Eagle at its plants and branches and in advertising of its products.

Cotton Textile Institute officials, however, said that a deficiency in wages paid by the mill was discovered through the mandatory reports which cotton mills file with the institute. The complaint was warped, it was stated, but continued its violation.

In order to get back the NRA insignia the telegram will have to pay to workers the minimum level for the entire period of violation, it was explained. The amount to be paid will be ascertained through an audit of the company's books to be at the expense of the company.

ICKES MAKES OIL FIELD WAGE RATES RETROACTIVE

Washington. — Secretary Ickes, Oil Administrator, ordered, retroactive to September 2, 1933, minimum wage rates recently established for drillers and helpers employed by oil companies and oil operators.

Employes of drilling contractors who were not formally brought within the terms of the Oil Code until December 21 will share in the retroactive benefits. A substantial payment to employes affected by the order was expected.

The minima established March 20 by the Secretary for drilling employes were: Rotary tools drillers, $1.25 an hour; helpers, 75 cents; cable tools drillers, $1; helpers, 87½ cents. Rates prior to the March order ranged as low as 40¢ cents.

AFL FORGES AHEAD IN AUTO INDUSTRY

Executive Council Orders Research Organization Established in Detroit Area to Consider All Problems Affecting Automobile Workers.

Washington.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at its Spring meeting here, authorized President Green to organize a research staff in Detroit for investigation of problems affecting labor in the automobile industry.

The action was taken after a progress report had been made by William Collins, Detroit representative.

Mr. Collins reported that there are 75 different branches in the automobile industry. He reviewed the recent negotiations between the unions and the officials of the Ford Motor Corporation and the Fisher Body Corporation.

He said that the policy of his organization was to keep agitation at a minimum so as not to interfere with the orderly progress of the industry.

He concluded with an outline of the broad problems of the industry as affecting labor and requested that a research staff be set up under Mr. Green's direction.

The research organization will comprise economists, statisticians and clerical workers.

Among the problems to be taken up for consideration are:

The spreading up of production, the stability of employment with special reference to the seasonal trend of the industry, the method of laying off employes at the season's end, the classification of work and wages and working conditions in automobile plants all over the country.

The decision to form the research organization was heralded as a notice to the automobile industry that "the American Federation of Labor is here to stay," and that it would continue its efforts to establish sound method of working out problems in which employers and employes were vitally interested.

4,000 Viscose Workers Win 9 Per Cent Wage Increase

Parkersburg, W. Va.—The Viscose Company, textile concern, granted a wage increase of 9 per cent to its 4,000 employes.

The increase ended threats of a strike. The agreement was reached between officers of the company and of the United Textile Workers of America.